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#12/C
1/14/02IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 1641

In re

Patent Application of

Thierry Gicquel, et al.

Serial No. 09/554,167

Filed: July 11, 2000

Examiner: K. Padmanabhan

I, P. Brandenburg, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date of my signature.

P. Brandenburg
Signature

11/21/01
Date of Signature

"REACTION VESSELS, A SET OF SUCH
VESSELS, AND AN IMMUNOLOGICAL ASSAY
METHOD AND APPARATUS IMPLEMENTING
SUCH SETS OF VESSELS"

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.114

Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This responds to the Office action mailed May 23, 2001, for which a response was due August 23, 2001. A request for a three-month extension of time is being filed herewith.

As stated in the Examiner's Advisory Action mailed September 3, 2001, Applicants' Amendment After Final dated August 23, 2001, was not entered. Accordingly, the current claims are in the form of the claims after Applicants' Amendment dated April 30, 2001.

Prior to continued examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

11. (Twice Amended) Automatic apparatus for immunological assay, the apparatus comprising means for supporting, guiding, and stepwise displacement of vessels, or of sets of reaction vessels along a path having a predetermined number of positions, means

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